



LAPTOP
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Aorus 17

The new Aorus 17 is trying to change the framing of professional gaming laptops, by making them much faster.

Aorus is Gigabyte's premium gaming brand and the Aorus 17 is the biggest and most powerful gaming laptop the company makes. This weapon can be fitted with an Intel Core i9-9980HK CPU, 32GB of RAM and a Nvidia GeForce GTX 2080 GPU if you go all out. But even the entry level Aorus 17 XA comes with an Intel Core i7-9750H CPU, 16GB of RAM, and a GTX 2070 GPU, which is more than enough for some fast paced Full HD gaming. High refresh rate, low latency screens are starting to become more accessible, and the advantages for competitive gamers is becoming more apparent. So it is an excellent time for Aorus to have introduced a 240Hz panel to its most premium device. The 17.3-inch FHD panel from AUO is one of the fastest refresh rates available, but interestingly its response time was 3ms, a little behind the 1ms you get

from the highest performing professional gamer screens. Both the Aorus 17 XA and the Aorus 17 YA have more than enough grunt to get games up and running fast enough to make the most of a 240Hz panel, though you are obviously likely to see a lot better results form the higher specced Aorus 17 YA. We tested the higher powered unit in this review and was able to get demanding modern games like *The Division 2* running at 91 frames per second using Full HD Ultra graphical settings. At this pace you are definitely going to see some benefits form the faster screen, but studies done by Nvidia have shown that your performance will continue to improve significantly if you push your screen to run up to (and even over) 144fps. Even with the Aorus 17 XA and its RTX 2080 GPU, you're probably going to need to compromise

on some graphical settings in order to crank the screen up over 144fps on any real looking first person shooter titles. The Aorus 17 XA with a GTX 2070 will set you back around \$3,299, while the 2080 wielding Aorus 17 YA costs either \$4,299 or \$5,399 depending on whether you get an i7 or an i9 CPU. These premium price tags mean that these devices come with some desirable features including a full sized, Omron mechanical switch keyboard, AI hardware acceleration software and either a 512GB or a 1TB PCIe 3,000/1,500MB/s internal SSD. There's also independent Xrite Pantone certification for colour precision of Delta E less than one (which means you'll have a colour profile with extremely precise colour reproduction) and you have top of the line Killer Ethernet 2600 and Wi-Fi 6

AX1650 network connectivity. The 94Wh battery has a pretty standard 2 hours and 23 minutes battery life in PCMark Home battery benchmarks. While the i9-9980HK is a extremely powerful 2.4-5GHz CPU the Aorus 17 managed to keep it under 100 degrees at all times across our testing. The unit was outperformed by an overclocked MSI GT76 Titan, but if you wanted to tweak CPU performance you can push this chip a little further. **Joel Burgess**

Verdict

The ultra-fast screen is a welcome addition to the most powerful 17 inch Aorus money can buy.

★★★★★

